7: Shklovsky --33-34 T-3 (1891-92) 1916 Yakut
116, 152, 576, 609

"On these days [RCH:in Sredne Kolymsk] we were [34] subjected to constant annoyance. The Yakuts are very inquisitive and each newcomer considered it his duty to come and gaze upon 'the people from afar,' and for long afterwards in his distant home he will relate to his clan all about our books, our 'stone' eyes, out 'dog-like,' bearded faces, and other marvellous things, eliciting from his hearers cries of great astonishment and incredulity. Added to the inconvenience of this doubtful popularity, the task of receiving in one day ten or twelve of these Yakut visitors was not a slight matter. For each one we had to climb on the roof and open the chimney, which was closed to keep out mosquitoes; next to light the fire and boil the kettle, for the Yakut will not go until he has had some tea. Fortunately, it is not necessary to entertain the guest beyond giving him tea, frozen clotted cream and milk; he will finish it all, rise, cross himself and bow, saying 'Thank you,' and the visit ends."

7: Shklovsky -- 34-35 T-3 (1891-92) 1916 Yakut
116, 431, 574, 609

"As my hut [RCH: in Sredne Kolymsk] was directly opposite the Assembly House I could not complain of neglect on the part of visitors. The Yakuts soon found out that we never sent them away, and the door had hardly closed after one visitor before another came in. Some of them had an artless way of obtaining things. One would come and stand in the doorway, bowing.

'What do you want, friend?' I asked.

The 'friend' takes out from his breast a gnawed piece of yukala or half-cured fish and offers it to me, and it would appear that he has travelled 500 versts in order to make this present. After this the 'friend' not only feels quite at home, but even considers that he has placed me under an obligation. He removes [35] his eared cap, loosens his belt, sits down and, when tea is given him, he mentions that he is very fond of bread and vodka. He silently pushes his empty tobacco pouch forward, as a hint that it requires filling; then, taking my knife, suggests an exchange, the transaction being very profitable for the 'friend'. Next, taking my comb, he uses it on his stiff, harsh, doubtful-looking hair, then, after asking for several other trifling things, he unwillingly takes his departure, casting a lingering glance around to see whether there is anything more for which he can ask. We feared these Yakuts with their presents as we feared fire. But with such guests what could be done? We lacked courage to show them the door."

10: Bush--160. T-3 (1865-67) 1871 Yakut
116, 609, 142, 171

"Upon arriving at the settlement, about fifty persons--men, women, and children--rushed from the log huts to meet us. They were nearly all Yakouts, and, though dressed much like the Tungusians, could be readily distinguished from the latter by the regularity of their features and the greater intelligence expressed in their countenances. They all have the prominent cheek-bones of the Tartar."

10: Bush--161-162 T-3 (1865-67) 1871 Yakut
116, 181, 609

"They are neat both with regard to person and habitations, more so than any other of the eastern tribes of Siberia, and are very domestically inclined. Horses and cows are their constant companions. Those whom we saw at the settlement near Tugur had been formerly in the employ of the Russian-American Fur Company in Ajan, and were afterward brought to this place by Captain Lindholm. Among them [162] were a number whom Swartz had previously known at Ajan, so our reception was most cordial."

12 Galitzin -- 146 N-2 (no date) 1853 Yakut
116, 157, 261, 554, 609

"The Yacoutes are kind and officious: hospitality towards strangers is one of their virtues. At the same time they are suspicious, mistrustful, and timid. When occasion requires it, they are extremely sober, and a little sora, or sour butter, suffices for their nourishment; but as soon as necessity has ceased to compel them, they become such gluttons as to render it difficult to give an idea how far their gluttony goes. A Yacoute is capable of devouring an extraordinary quantity of meat, but cares little about its quality or its freshness. The entrails of the animals and the ox's hide are aliments which do not cause him any disgust. To eat a fresh ox-hide, they are satisfied with putting it for a little while under hot ashes in order to make the hair fall off. Fat in a liquid state is one of their most exquisite dainties: They feed upon it without measure. Among them the faculty of being able to eat much is considered as a kind of merit fit to draw upon them respect. It is not uncommon to hear them say, when they praise some one of their people, 'Outio`asatchi khisi!' namely, 'That man there eats well!',"

16: Great Britain Admiralty -- 115 G-3 (no date) 1920 Yakut
116, 484, 609

"They [RCH: the Yukaghir] are hospitable to a fault, a fact which is known by their neighbours the Yakuts, who make protracted stays among them and eat up their fish."

20: Czaplicka--60 E-3 (1915-16) 1916 Yakut
116, 609

"When my driver pulls up, it is soon clear whether our hosts are Tungus or Yakut. If the latter, the whole family will come out to greet the travellers; if they are rich Tungus, a 'workman' will approach to help us out of our sakui, which must be left on the sledges when we enter the tent."

24: Wrangell--168 G-3 (1820-23) 1842 Yakut
116, 609

"It was now time for me to return to Nishne Kolymsk. I parted from these kind people, among whom I had recovered my health, and who were cheerful and happy when I first came among them, without being able to offer them anything in their distress except the expression of my sincere sympathy."

36: Niemojowski--98-99 T-2 (no date) 1883 Yakut
116, 157, 609

" It often happens that the monotony of the journey on a raft, the want of occupation, and especially the knowledge of perfect impunity makes low and degraded shopkeepers' assistants, devoid of all feelings of humanity, do things which are beyond practical jokes, and [99] which closely resemble cruelty, but even then the unequalled patience of the Yakuts never forsakes them ."

36: Niemojowski-- 109-110 T-2 (no date) 1883 Yakut
116, 157, 609

"The sociability of the Yakuts, springing from their kind-hearted and gentle characters, would render them easily amenable to the benefits of civilization were it not for their extraordinary shyness and almost servile humility; considering men of other races, and especially Europeans, as being superior in every respect to themselves, they dare not compare themselves with them even in thought, and imagine that the [110] very idea of trying to imitate them is unpardonable impudence. If they listen respectfully to the insulting jokes of a wandering pedlar, or submit meekly to painful usage from drunken shopmen, it is not from cowardice or fear, but from the firm conviction of their own inferiority. Endowed by nature with indomitable courage, they are fearless in the presence of danger. It is a fine sight to see these short, thick-set men when the fierce and ravenous wolves attack their settlements; armed with spear or axe they valiantly defend their wives, children, and possessions; the expression of their countenance usually so gentle changes marvellously; their gentle eyes gleam with ardour; the features, generally characterized by a friendly smile, assume a look of cool energy and steadfastness. These unfortunate people, accustomed to all sorts of humiliations, who are made the sport of any low European drunkard, then suddenly rise to the level of heroes."

36: Niemojowski--110-112 T-2 (no date) 1883 Yakut 1-2
116, 609

"If the Yakuts who inhabit this part of their immense country, (1) accustomed as they

1. The Yakutsh province is 74,153 German square miles, it is therefore nearly eight times as large as France.

are to the sight of Europeans from time to time on the [111] banks of the Lena, are yet so shy with strangers, what are we to say as regards those of them who inhabit the eastern parts beyond the town of Yakutck towards Kamtschatka? There the appearance of a stranger is an epoch in the annals of the country. The traveller, whom chance brings into these parts so distant from all European settlements, is looked upon almost as a supernatural being to whose merest whim everything must give way. I have known several persons whose fate it was to travel through these eastern parts of Siberia, and they all agreed in giving the Yakuts the highest praise for their behaviour. The best fish, the most comfortable huts, and the choicest venison were always reserved for the guests, but in spite of this disinterested hospitality, this good-nature, ready to gratify the slightest wish, the travellers still considered themselves less happy than when amongst races who had less adoration for Europeans; for, though having everything that goodwill and boundless generosity could supply, they lacked what the heart and soul require, the social bond uniting man with man.

36: Niemojowski--110-112 T-2 (no date) 1883 Yakut-2
116, 609

The kindness shown to them was always so mingled with veneration and worship that it failed to satisfy men accustomed to see in other [112]men a fellow-creature and a brother and not to be themselves elevated on a pedestal. They were approached with timidity, all their wishes were obeyed with alacrity, and the new-comer, finding himself a distinct item in a serving, bowing multitude, felt like the phoenix in the old story, unhappy because he could not find another being like himself."

49: Findeisen -- 10 [2] E-1 (no date) 1930 Yakut
116 435, 439, 543, 609

Shimkevich calls the Yakuts real parasites of the Tunguses. In his German travel account, he says: "Twice a year, on Easter and Christmas, they hold markets in the forests, where the Tunguses will find everything they need: reindeer, powder, shotguns, clothes, sugar, butter. They usually become indebted to the Yakuts and cannot get rid of them any more. The Yakuts follow them and sell their goods at a terribly high price. In Middendorg's time, i. e. in 1844, there were 26 traveling Yakut merchants; today there are more than 60 of them. In such a market which was held in the vicinity of the gold washing plants of the Niman company, 20 merchants bought furs from 100 native families which were present; the furs had a value of 124,000 marks, but the natives were sold goods worth 80,000 marks instead. But the Tunguses had still a debt of about 160,000 to the tradesmen. The goods included 3000 sable-furs worth 36 marks each, 1300 musk-rat, squirrel, fox-and bear furs, etc. The Tunguses bought 1086 reindeer, including 684 beasts of burden at a price of 80 to 120 marks, and 250 to 300 saddle-reindeer worth 200 to 240 marks each. 24,000 pounds of cow's butter which the Yakuts had bought along on their reindeer were sold at one mark a pound, 400 pounds of other fat at 80 pfennigs, and various other goods at 4000 marks."

In another place, he says: The market held annually near the Niman gold washing plants has replaced all others previously held. The natives then come together from all sides and from far places, and the Yakut merchants make good business. The Yakuts are not only good merchants, they are good hunters, too.

/144 cont./

122 123 the statement concerning the date when the report was received in Wiljuisk agreed with its dispatch. /The remainder of p. 144, p. 145, and the first two paragraphs of p. 146 are omitted in the translation; see the foreign text. Page 146 continues as follows./

On September 7, at the mouth of the very considerable left tributary Ukikít, as Temír Jegór had prophesied, we met his older brother Nikofór, who held the position of a dessjátnik (a community office). While I made magnetic observations in spite of the bad weather, he told Czekanowsky something about the further course of the river, the places where people were to be found, and the like. In general, I must note here, the results of such inquiries are reliable to some extent only when they are made from different persons, completely /147/ independent of one another. All statements about distances are particularly unreliable; the number of days of travel is most indefinite, as we had opportunity to experience often enough. In addition there is the very common deliberate twisting of the truth, especially with reference to the trade routes. Since the Jakuten /Yakut/ settled here on the Olenék are all more or less middlemen between the Russian traders on the Lena and the Wiljui /Vilyui/, on the one hand, and the Dolgan on the Anábara, on the other hand, it is obvious that they do not want to be seen on the maps by strangers whose intentions they do not know. Such a route passing by Temír Jegór's dwelling place led to the Dolgan.

[441] [443] [809]

122 133 On September 7 we passed a second considerable left tributary with an especially wide mouth, the Bírekta, and on the next day the likewise quite large Butt. The tributaries from the right side are insignificant, for here the Lena with those belonging to it already comes too close. Unfortunately we could only supply ourselves with meat from Nikofór; we could not get a guide here either, because his son had gone to look for stray reindeer, which, it seems, is one of the chief occupations of these uncivilized peoples. /The last paragraph on p. 147 and the first two paragraphs on p. 148 are omitted in the translation; see the foreign text. Page 148 continues as follows./